

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7089

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 2062

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR RH

SUB: MUZOREWA IN GHANA

REF: A. MONROVIA 1652, B. ABIDJAN 2658

1. SUMMARY: MUZOREWA CALLED ON ME MARCH 17 AND MARCH 18. HE SEEMS REASONABLY CONFIDENT "TIDE" RUNNING WITH HIM BOTH IN TERMS PATRIOTIC FRONT AND IN TERMS INTERNAL SUPPORT IN ZIMBABWE. EXCEPT IN TERMS OF URGING MORE ACTIVE US EFFORTS ESPECIALLY WITH OUR FRIENDS IN AFRICA HE DID NOT STRESS REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE.

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2. BISHOP MUZOREWA, ACCOMPANIED BY STEPHEN PARIRENYATWA, ANC SECRETARY FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS, CALLED ON ME MARCH 17 AND MADE SECOND CALL ALONE MARCH 18. IN CONVERSATIONS HE REVIEWD PREVIOUS STANCE OF ANC IN CALLING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF US SUPPORT IN THE PAST. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD INITIALLY BEEN

SKEPTICAL OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP LAST FALL BUT HAD BEEN PLEASED AT THE LATER POSITIVE RESULTS.

3. HE ALSO REVIEWED THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING PATRIOTIC FRONT AND INDICATED THAT IN SPITE OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED HE FEELS THE TIDE IS RUNNING WITH HIM. ACCORDING TO HIM, NKOMO IS SUPPORTED STRONGLY BY KAUNDA (WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS CONFUSED) BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE USSR WHICH IS PROVIDING THE MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR THE LIBERATION FIGHTERS. IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT OAU MINISTERS DID NOT ENDORSE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT LOME IS A VICTORY FOR THE ANC. GHANA'S POSITION, MUZOREWA SAID, HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE IN FAVOR OF UNITY. (MUZOREWA SAW HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG ON MARCH 13.) HE ALSO HAD GOOD WORDS TO SAY ABOUT LIBERIA WHICH HE EMPHASIZED IS "VERY TOUGH" IN ITS SUPPORT.

4. MUZOREWA REMAINS CONFIDENT OF HIS OWN INTERNAL SUPPORT IN RHODESIA--BOTH BLACK AND WHITE. HE NOTED THAT IN PAST ANC HAD 10-15 PERCENT WHITE SUPPORT IN RHODESIA WHEREAS SINCE OCTOBER THIS HAD GROWN TO POINT WHERE "75 PERCENT OF WHITES NOW SUPPORT ANC." I ASKED IF SMITH'S RECENT MOVES TO RELAX DISCRIMINATING LEGISLATION HAS HAD ANY EFFECT AND IF MUZOREWA BELIEVES IT USEFUL TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SMITH. MUZOREWA CHARACTERIZED SMITH'S MOVES AS "TOO LITTLE TOO LATE" AND SAID THE ONLY THING HE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH SMITH IS LATTER'S RELINQUISHMENT OF POWER. HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER GROWING ANTI-BRITISH FEELING AMONG RHODESIAN WHITES, EVEN THOUGH HE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUED TO THINK THAT GENEVA PROPOSAL FOR A BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DURING TRANSITION PERIOD WAS SENSIBLE.

5. IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE MUZOREWA HOPES TO HEAD OFF OAU STAMPEDE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT NEXT SUMMIT MEETING IN GABON. HE WERNED THAT WHILE HE EXPECTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, "REASON DOES NOT ALWAYS PREVAIL; SOMETIMES EMOTIONS TAKE OVER." HE COUNTED AS FAVORABLE AUGURY FACT THAT PRESIDENT BONGO, AS NEXT OAU PRESIDENT, WILL PRESIDE AT LIBREVILLE AND WILL SET TONE FOR MEETING IN OPENING ADDRESS. (HE CONFIRMED TRAVEL PLANS TO VISIT GABON, (REF A) AND ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY INVITED BY BONGO TO MAKE VISIT). MUZOREWA WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT HE AND COLLEAGUES SEE INCREASING SIGNS OF A DANGEROUS EAST-WEST SPLIT AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

6. RE USG ROLE MUZOREWA WONDERED IF US DOING ENOUGH "MANEUVERING BEHIND THE SCENES" AND CALLED FOR MORE ACTIVE

AND VIGOROUS US EFFORTS ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS US FRIENDS
(READ MODERATES) IN AFRICA. HE IMPLIED THAT MANY AF
HEADS OF STATE WOULD WELCOME SUCH EFFORTS ON OUR PART.
HE WARNED THAT TIME WAS NOT ON THE SIDE OF "THOSE OF US"
WHO GENUINELY DESIRED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE ALSO ASKED
WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCE US MIGHT HAVE ON FRANCE AND THEREBY
IN TURN ON MODERATE FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS.

7. COMMENT: MUZOREWA WAS RELAXED, ARTICULATE AND
CONFIDENT. OTHER THAN THAT NOTED PARA 5, NO REFERENCE
WAS MADE TO NEED FOR US ASSISTANCE. (SEE REF A.)
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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